University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association

Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of the University of Minnesota Duluth, in order to effect an organization for the student body for the purposes of university governance involvement for the improvement of student life; to actively promote the goals of the University; to organize and coordinate programs of co-curricular nature; to promote better coordination of the rights and responsibilities of students to and between colleges, schools, departments, administrations, and the community; to effectively reflect student opinion on all matters affecting students in their role as students; and to cooperate effectively with faculty, staff, administrators, and community in areas common to all as a university community; do hereby establish this Constitution.

Article I. Name

Section 01 The name of this organization shall be the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association, herein and after referred to as the UMDSA.

Section 02 The governing document of UMDSA shall be this Constitution.

Article II. Membership

Section 01 All regularly enrolled students of the University of Minnesota Duluth who pay the student services fee shall be non-voting members of UMDSA. (Any reference to members in this document shall refer to congressional and executive members as defined below.)

Section 02 Voting members are those defined in this constitution.

Article III. Rules

Section 01 UMDSA shall operate under Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 02 Rule interpretation is delegated to a standing committee as defined in the Bylaws.
Article IV. Powers of UMDSA

Section 01 The UMDSA shall be the official voice of the University of Minnesota Duluth student body and shall have all powers and duties as designated by this Constitution, Bylaws, Shared Governance, and the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Section 02 The UMDSA shall be the official voice and representative to any and all campus assemblies and/or governance systems.

Section 03 The UMDSA Senators shall be the official voice and at-large representation to any and all collegiate assemblies and/or collegiate systems.

Article V. The President

Section 01 The chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA shall be the President, who will run on a single ticket with a Vice President and will be elected yearly by a direct vote of the student body for a term of one year. Any currently enrolled student having earned a passing grade in a minimum of thirty (30) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the presidency, shall be eligible to run. The President will run on a single ticket with a Vice President.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

A. The President shall recommend from Congress, to the extent possible, nominations and removal of Executive Officers, Directors, and Professional Student Personnel.

B. The President shall hold authority over and be responsible for the Vice President, Executive Officers, Directors, and Professional Student Personnel.

C. The President shall have the power of veto over all acts passed by the UMDSA Congress.

D. The President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

E. The President shall nominate all student members to any and all Campus, Special, and Advisory Committees or other bodies as designated by the Administration.

F. The President shall make recommendations and consult with Congress concerning membership on Congressional Committees.

G. The President shall have the power to nominate or appoint any fee-paying student to any Chief Officer position as designated by this constitution and in the bylaws. These appointments are done
with the advice and consent of Congress and must be presented to Congress within 2 weeks of the

election.

H. The President shall have the power to nominate or appoint any fee-paying student to any Director
position as designated in the bylaws. These appointments are subject to Congressional approval.

I. The President will be one of the student members nominated to serve on the University
Coordinating Council.

J. The President fills any requests and/or nominations for students to committees and other bodies. If
there are requests pending prior to the first congressional meeting of the year, these are to be filled
one week following the first congressional meeting.

K. The President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution, UMDSA
Bylaws and/or as directed by Congress.

Section 03 Presidential Succession

A. The order of succession shall be: Vice President, Speaker of Congress, Chief Financial Officer,
Chief Student Life Officer, Chief Academic Affairs Officer, Chief External Affairs Officer, and the
Chief of Staff.

B. The above offices shall perform the duties of the President in the case that the President is unable
to discharge the duties of the office by reason of disability, removal, resignation, or long-term illness.

C. When, for any reason, a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the above offices shall serve
as acting President, in order of succession, until the end of the immediate academic semester. A
special election of the student body shall be held within 4 weeks according to bylaws to fill the
vacancy.

Article VI. The Vice President

Section 01 The Vice President, who will be elected on the same ticket as the President yearly by a
direct vote of the student body for one Congressional year. Any currently enrolled student having a
minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of
credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each
semester of the vice presidency, shall be eligible to join on a ticket with an eligible Presidential
candidate.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities
A. The Vice President shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

B. Shall oversee the Cabinet on behalf of the President, including holding Cabinet meetings at least twice a semester as well as at the request of the President.

C. The Vice President shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Shall be responsible for filing and presenting UMDSA’s Student Service Fee request each year in cooperation with the Chief Financial Officer.

E. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President should they be absent or incapacitated.

Article VII. Chief Student Life Officer

Section 01 Shall be the chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA student life. The Officer will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress to serve a one-year Congressional term. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the appointment, shall be eligible for nomination.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

A. The Officer shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.

B. The Officer shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

C. Shall chair the UMDSA Student Life committee

D. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Student Experiences Committee.

E. The Officer shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VIII. Chief Academic Affairs Officer

Section 01 Shall be the chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA academic affairs. The Officer will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress to serve a one-year Congressional term. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time
student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the appointment, shall be eligible for nomination.

**Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities**

A. The Officer shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.

B. The Officer shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

C. Shall chair the UMDSA Academic Affairs Committee.

D. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Teaching and Learning Committee.

E. The Officer shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

**Article IX. Chief Financial Officer**

**Section 01** Shall be the chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA finances. The Officer will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress to serve a one-year Congressional term. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the appointment, shall be eligible for nomination.

**Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities**

A. The Officer shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.

B. The Officer shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

C. Shall chair the UMDSA Student Organization Grant Committee.

D. The Officer shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

E. Shall be one of the student members nominated to serve on the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee.

F. Shall assist the Vice President in filing UMDSA’s Student Service Fee request each year.

G. The Officer shall submit a semester variance report to UMDSA Congress at least once per semester.
Article X. Chief External Affairs Officer

Section 01 Shall be the chief administrator and executive of the UMDSA external affairs. The Officer will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress to serve a one-year Congressional term. Any currently enrolled student having a minimum of twelve (12) credits in attendance at UMD and carrying at least the minimum number of credits to be considered a full-time student at the time of election as well as the duration of each semester of the appointment, shall be eligible for nomination.

Section 02 Powers and Responsibilities

A. The Officer shall hold authority over and be responsible for the directors listed in the bylaws.

B. The Officer shall be responsible for all such programs delegated by Student Congress.

C. The Officer shall carry out any duties specified or allowed in this Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Shall be responsible for advocating on behalf of students of UMD on local, state, and federal levels of government.

Article XI. Student Congress

Section 01 The legislative body of UMD students shall be vested in the Student Congress.

Section 02 Membership

A. The voting membership of the Student Congress shall be the Senators, Representatives at Large, Freshman Representatives, and the Representative to the Board of Regents.

B. The officers of the UMDSA Congress shall be the Speaker and Associate Speaker, to be elected at the first regular meeting of the UMDSA congressional year.

C. Representatives and Senators shall be members of at least one UMDSA standing committee Campus Governance Committee and carry out duties as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Senators shall be UMDSA's official voice to and from their respective collegiate units as well as fulfilling duties assigned by Congress. Senators are also required to participate in University Senate Governance meetings and committees.

E. Freshman Representatives are the official representatives of the freshman class to UMDSA and shall carry out duties as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws and as assigned by Congress.
Section 03 Congressional Powers and Responsibilities

A. To formulate ideas and goals with respect to the University Senate, any campus assembly/governance system, the Board of Regents, and all other collegiate and student organizations and to discuss issues relevant to the above institutions.

B. To formulate committees and councils in respect to campus concerns and issues.

C. Power of disapproval of executive decisions and to terminate any program, project, or service associated with and/or funded by UMDSA. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum is required for the above action.

D. To approve semester budgets and any variance thereof, submitted by the Chief Financial Officer and the Vice President at least once per semester, as well as approve the Student Service Fee request.

E. The power of removal by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum as defined in Article XII of this document.

F. Power to override a Presidential veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.

G. Power to initiate any programs they may deem necessary, and to direct the President, Officers, and Directors to administer and enforce such programs.

H. To carry out all duties as designated in the Bylaws.

I. Congress shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the UMDSA Congress and make them available to all students, faculty, staff and administration of the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Section 04 Speaker of Congress

A. The Speaker shall be chosen from the Congress-elect by the Congress-elect.

B. Shall be responsible for conducting and certifying all votes taken in Congress.

C. Shall conduct Student Congress and monitor all committee minutes and agendas.

D. Shall carry out all duties as designated in the bylaws as well as enforce Congressional compliance with the bylaws.

E. May call a meeting of the Committee on Committees to enforce compliance to the constitution and bylaws. The Speaker is a non-voting member of this committee.

Section 05 Committee on Committees
A. Shall be chaired by the Associate Speaker of Congress.

B. Shall meet as needed or by the discretion of the Speaker of Congress.

C. The Speaker of Congress shall be a non-voting member of this committee.

D. Has all powers and responsibilities as outlined in the UMDSA Constitution and Bylaws.

E. All actions recommended by this committee must be a remedy related to the original complaint.

**Article XII. Misconduct and Removal**

Section 01 Any appointed Officer or Director is subject to removal from office as motioned by the President, Congress, or by the student body.

Section 02 Any elected UMDSA Member is subject to removal from office as motioned by the Speaker, Congress, or by the student body.

Section 03 Grounds for removal shall exist when there is evidence of negligence, or miasmal conduct to the UMDSA, the University of Minnesota Duluth, criminal conduct, any violation of the student conduct code, or violations of the attendance policy as decided at the first congressional meeting of the year, including dereliction of duty and failure to fulfill responsibilities outlined in this Constitution and the Bylaws.

Section 04 All removal proceedings will progress in the following order:

A. A motion for removal shall be presented in writing to the UMDSA Congress.

B. The motion shall consist of the primary complaint and rationale for removal including any relevant evidence.

C. The motion shall be reviewed by Congress and must be presented to Congress at the following session.

D. At least one week after discussing the motion, Congress may vote. The vote must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of quorum.

Section 05 Upon a successful vote of removal the member is considered removed from UMDSA.

**Article XIII. Amendments**
Section 01 All amendments shall be presented at one Congress meeting, discussed, and then tabled for one week before being voted upon at that time.

Section 02 The amendment shall pass upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of quorum and ratification by a majority vote (50% + 1) of the students who vote on the amendment in a campus-wide referendum.

Approved by UMDSA Congress: 2-25-2019
Ratified by UMD Student Body: 3-29-2019